

ICEBREAKER

TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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Editorial

Anyone thinking that this year's announcements of funding for the Antarctic Airlink, an award-winning Midwinter Festival and the opening of the new CCAMLR Headquarters was enough publicity about Tasmania's Antarctic activities, should think again and start getting ready for next year's specials. TMAG's new Antarctic exhibition is opening in March, there's another Midwinter Festival in June, and the first SCAR/COMNAP/SCALOP meetings ever to be held in Australia in July. This last event will include a Trade Show designed to promote all TPN members' strength and versatility, and all TPN members are urged to participate in this local opportunity for international business.

This edition starts the 9th year of producing Ice Breaker. What began with an electronic typewriter and 'quality-challenged' photocopies, is now computer prepared and printed from pdfs, thanks to the efforts of my visual editor. Thanks also to IB's regular contributors and those willing (or persistently encouraged) to contribute occasionally, for filling IB with such a wide range of articles. New contributors and advertisers are always welcome.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Anthea Wallhead

Cover Picture: Versatile team - P&O Polar's *Aurora Australis*, Skytrader's CASA 212's & Helicopter Resources' helicopter. [Photo: Sharon Labudda, AAD's AGSO, Davis Station]

Back Page: Antarctic Air - Stamp Covers from Klaus Arne Pedersen

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ICE BREAKER Exclusive!

NEU SCHWABENLAND: The Lost Colony – The German Antarctic Expedition 1938-39.
Compiled by John Livermore

12

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ICE BREAKER
TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE

FROM LARA GIDDINGS' DESK



NEW COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR) OFFICIALLY OPENED

On Monday 24 October, the first day of the 24th annual CCAMLR meeting, I had the pleasure of joining with Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to celebrate the official opening of the CCAMLR Secretariat's new headquarters at 181 Macquarie Street.

The magnificent sandstone building is heritage listed and was designed by the first Tasmanian born architect, Mr William Archer. The building was originally used as the Hutchins School and later became the Masonic Club. It is listed on the Register of the National Estate because it demonstrates the principal characteristics of a Victorian Academic Gothic sandstone educational building.

The new premises provide many benefits and advantages to CCAMLR. The new accommodation and meeting facilities enable CCAMLR to better cater for its needs as an international secretariat and provide a purpose-built venue to hold its annual meetings. These facilities are a credit to the vision of CCAMLR Executive Secretary Dr Denzil Miller and his team, and developer Nekon Pty Ltd. With the help of Mr Robert Rockefeller, the refurbishment of this magnificent building has provided for high quality office accommodation and conference facilities.

I have no doubt this facility will truly become a hub for the international Antarctic community in Tasmania. The new Secretariat Headquarters will enable the city to better cater for international workshops and meetings and reaffirms Tasmania as a key Antarctic gateway. A number of important international meetings are scheduled to take place at the new premises in 2006. They include an international workshop on the Sub-Antarctic region and the annual meeting of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), both of which will take place in July next year.

The State Government has worked tirelessly to ensure that the future needs of CCAMLR continue to be met here in Tasmania. Ongoing support for the CCAMLR Secretariat is a key policy under the State's *Antarctic Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy* and this support reaffirms our position as a significant southern Antarctic gateway.

In partnership with the Australian Government, we have entered into an arrangement under which CCAMLR's accommodation rental costs are shared. The State makes an annual contribution of \$125,000 toward hosting the Secretariat in Hobart. The Tasmanian Government knows that Hobart is one of the world's great centres of excellence for temperate marine science and industry and it is a privilege for us to host CCAMLR's headquarters here. The significant scientific and economic benefits that CCAMLR brings to Tasmania are greatly appreciated by the Tasmanian Government.

Each year the annual CCAMLR meeting brings almost 200 Antarctic scientific specialists to Hobart from 31 Antarctic countries, and considerable scientific and economic benefits to the State.

Amongst other things, CCAMLR provides critical support in the global effort to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean. In September 2005, a Cambodian-flagged vessel, *FV Taruman*, was apprehended by the Australian customs patrol vessel, *Ocean Viking*, for allegedly illegally fishing Patagonian toothfish stocks off Tasmania's Macquarie Island. The *FV Taruman* was brought into Hobart where the ship's Spanish Master and 30 crew (from Chile, Ukraine, Russia and Peru) were removed from the boat and held at a site near Hobart after being charged with illegally fishing over 140 metric tonnes of Patagonian toothfish in Australia's Sub-Antarctic waters.

As part of the Antarctic Treaty System, CCAMLR Members have led the world in applying precautionary principles and implementing an ecosystem approach to the management of marine living resources in the Southern Ocean. Incidents like this highlight the importance of the work being done by CCAMLR and national governments in the areas of marine conservation and resource management.

As another year draws to a close, I wish everyone in the Antarctic community a happy Christmas and New Year and my thoughts go especially to those expeditioners who will enjoy a white Christmas in Antarctica.

Lara Giddings
Minister for Economic Development

FROM THE DESK OF WILL HODGMAN



It was a great honour and delight to attend the recent opening of the new Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Secretariat at Macquarie Street, Hobart, which was launched by Federal Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, and State Economic Development Minister, Lara Giddings.

This historic building was once the Hutchins School. More recently it has been used as a social club, accommodating for example, the local branch of the political party I am involved with. I often used to think what a great pity it was that such a magnificent building was not put to better use!

The premises have been transformed in an extraordinary way, and now contain a truly world class facility to house the secretariat of this internationally significant agency. Fittingly, this is the 25th year of CCAMLR, and it has certainly celebrated this milestone in style by establishing a tremendous new home that it will enjoy for many years to come.

To all those involved in the planning, development and construction of this facility, including of course CCAMLR director Dr Denzil Miller, my heartiest congratulations on a job exceedingly well done.

Importantly the facility will be utilised regularly, with a number of international meetings for next year already planned. It will enhance our standing as an Antarctic gateway, and further promote our place in the international community.

CCAMLR plays a vital role in the protection of our precious environment, and recently Australia has taken great steps to enhance the conservation of the Southern Ocean ecosystem, and especially toothfish and albatrosses. We now have greater levels of protection, with increased patrols and a reduction in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing practices. CCAMLR enables greater coordination and cooperation between signatory countries to tackle this serious problem.

At a more local level, I would like to congratulate the 2005 Antarctic Midwinter Festival for winning the 'Significant Festival and Events Award' at the recent Tasmanian Tourism Council Awards. Festival Director David Laskey and Antarctic Tasmania do a tremendous job in putting together this very popular event. Good luck for the national awards!

Finally, I wish you a happy and safe Festive Season, and all the best for a prosperous 2006!

Will Hodgman
Shadow Minister for Antarctic Tasmania



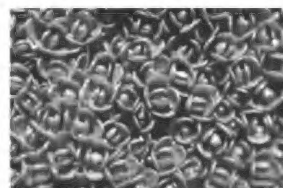
2006 International Forum
on the Sub-Antarctic
6-7 July 2006 : Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic
6 – 7 July 2006 - HOBART

This forum is being convened by Antarctic Tasmania and is possibly the first of its kind to be held in the world.

It will comprehensively develop the concept that the Sub-Antarctic islands and surrounding seas comprise a distinct domain which has its own unique character, scientific significance and management issues. It will cover topics such as Oceanography, Ecology, Climatology, Geophysics, Human Impacts, Tourism, Management and History.

Expressions of interest are currently being sought. Anyone interested in attending should send their name, address and details of their organisation to: antarctic@development.tas.gov.au.



MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF HOBART

I am pleased to be able to announce that the Council has agreed on some recent funding initiatives in relation to Antarctic and Southern Oceans activities.

Firstly, the Council has agreed to contribute to the funding of a scoping study into tourism to sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island and East Antarctica from Hobart. This study is being undertaken by Dr Julia Jabour of UTAS and Professor Jack Carlsen, Curtin University of Technology. The Council believes the study has much merit and will contribute to the knowledge and debate on Tourism issues in East Antarctica and sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island. Given the growing interest in tourism to these areas, the study is timely.

Secondly the Council has agreed to a degree of sponsorship for the next SCAR/COMNAP conference being held in Hobart during July next year. The Council is of the opinion that hosting this conference provides an unprecedented opportunity for the City and the State to showcase our abilities as an Antarctic gateway. The Council will use the opportunity to partner other organisations in promoting what Hobart has to offer the research and logistical industry, and why Hobart is the logical gateway to Antarctica.

The Council, through its Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy is keen to ensure an ongoing relationship with the Antarctic and Southern Oceans industry and research community. The Council believes these relationships play a key role in the future of our City. In fact the City has many advantages to offer through our globally unique cluster of academic and research institutions and commercial businesses.

We will continue to look for opportunities to ensure this industry grows and prospers.

I congratulate all of the industries that make up what is a very vibrant and active Antarctic-centred research and business community and thank them for their contribution to our City's profile.

Alderman Rob Valentine
Lord Mayor of Hobart



ANTARCTIC TOURISM REPORT 2005

11 tourist voyages (5 ships) plan to pass through Hobart this summer, en route to or returning from visits to East Antarctica and Macquarie Island. Two of these voyages will visit Australian Antarctic Territory (including Mawson's Huts at Commonwealth Bay), the others visiting the Ross Sea and/or sub-Antarctic islands.

We expect Australian operators to account for roughly 15% of the over 200 voyages on offer to the Antarctic Peninsula (departing from South America).

Two sightseeing flights over Antarctica (not landing) will depart from Australia this season (from Melbourne / Sydney).

The next annual general meeting of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators will be held in Washington DC in April 2006.

[Thanks to Stephen Powell from Antarctic and International Policy, Australian Antarctic Division, for this update.]



MIDWINTER FESTIVAL

For the second year, the Antarctic Midwinter Festival was awarded the *Significant Festival and Events Award* by the Tasmanian Tourism Council. The Festival will now be judged alongside Australia's most successful festivals and events in the Australian Tourism Awards in February 2006. The Hobart City Council recently committed \$9,000 funding support for the 2006 Antarctic Midwinter Festival, and on 18 November 2005, Festivals Australia awarded a \$12,000 grant to host a writer's festival event to be known as *Ice Cold Words*. David Laskey has again been contracted as the 2006 Festival Director.

CCAMLR

- On Friday 2 September 2005, a local function was held to celebrate the relocation of CCAMLR Secretariat to new premises. The function, attended by 240 people, was jointly hosted by Executive Secretary of CCAMLR, Minister for Economic Development, Chairman of the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) and the Rockefeller family.
- On 24 October 2005, the official opening ceremony for the new CCAMLR Headquarters was conducted by the Hon Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Lara Giddings, Minister for Economic Development. The official opening ceremony coincided with the first day of the CCAMLR annual meeting which was attended by 200 international delegates.
- On the evening of 26 October 2005 the Department sponsored the annual CCAMLR Headquarters function. Lara Giddings officially welcomed delegates to Hobart at the function.

BRIEFING FOR ALEXANDER DOWNER

With the generous support of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and the local office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Antarctic Tasmania arranged a local Antarctic sector briefing for Alexander Downer on 24 October. The minister was flown to the AAD at Kingston by helicopter (courtesy of Robert Rockefeller) for a tour of the AAD's facilities. This was followed by a sector briefing highlighting the achievements and aspirations of the Antarctic Gateway partners. Key issues such as future funding for the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC beyond 2010 were raised during the briefing. The briefing was also attended by representatives of Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, TPN, Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS), UTas, ACAP, and COMNAP.

COMNAP

The TPN has formed a SCAR/COMNAP Working Group, chaired by Antarctic Tasmania to organise a trade exhibition for July 2006. A COMNAP gold sponsorship package has also been finalised with the AAD. Given the cost of sponsorship (\$30,000 – gold package) the TPN has teamed up with other institutions to form an Antarctic Gateway "consortium". The sponsorship package includes naming rights to an icebreaker function (with invites for TPN members) and trade display space for the development of a large integrated Antarctic Gateway display.

The TPN working group has prepared a concept plan for the SCAR/COMNAP trade exhibition and is currently gathering materials for the display, as well as meeting with a set designer to discuss construction and lighting. The working group has also written to all TPN members asking for financial and in-kind support to develop the exhibition.

SUB-ANTARCTIC FORUM

A steering committee has been established with Sir Guy Green as chair. Participation includes representatives from the AAD, Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, CCAMLR and a representative from the United Kingdom. The two-day Sub-Antarctic Forum will be held on 6-7 July 2006, which is scheduled immediately prior to the SCAR/COMNAP meetings. The program for the Sub-Antarctic Forum is currently being developed by the steering committee and should be finalised by early December 2005.

The program will include papers and discussions of topics of special relevance to the region in the fields of: Oceanography • Geophysics • Ecology • Climatology • History • Human Impact Studies • Sub-Antarctic Management Practice • Tourism. Antarctic Tasmania has also developed a flyer, advertisement and Internet website for the forum: http://www.scarcomnap2006.org/m_subantarctic.php.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS

A number of briefings on the Tasmanian Antarctic sector were provided to international visitors including:

- 11 October 2005 Antarctic Tasmania received a visit from Mr Liang Shugen, Consul General of China.
- 6 September 2005, Antarctic Tasmania met with Prof Victor Fajardo Morales and Dr Claudio Venegas from the University of Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Chile.
- 26 August 2005, Antarctic Tasmania met with Mr Maruta who was visiting Australia to conduct research for the Japanese Government, specifically in relation to developing a national Antarctic commercialisation policy.

Continued >

TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



I'm sure that everyone who attended the open day at CCAMLR's new HQ on 2nd September was very impressed with the renovated buildings. I look forward to holding the next TPN meeting on 9th December there!

It is noteworthy that the premises were also very much to the liking of Alexander Downer when he opened them as Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs at the beginning of the CCAMLR meetings. Apparently the Minister's grandfather studied in the same buildings as a Hutchins student – small world!

I understand from Denzil Miller that the CCAMLR meetings went well in the new premises and that nothing was found wanting. That testimonial was matched by several overseas visitors I met. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Planning is now well in hand for next year's major COMNAP/SCAR/SCALOP conference to be held and hosted in Hobart. This will be a major opportunity to build on our already good international reputation both as a Network and as a State. Up to 1000 international visitors are expected and a Trade Show is being organised. I encourage all Members to participate as fully as they are able. Some details have already been sent out to TPN Members by Antarctic Tasmania's Office – there will be more!

It was good to hear of the safe arrival of the two CASA's in Antarctica after their season opening flight from Hobart. I look forward to hearing lots of good news stories of their achievements this summer as they prepare the way for the inter-continental jet service from Hobart. The service and its budgetary allocation was announced by the Prime Minister in Hobart in early September. It is clear that the PM sees what can be done by the Airlink and has thrown his support behind it. Whilst in Hobart for opening CCAMLR's new HQ, Minister Downer also noted the strength of Federal Cabinet support behind the decision to fund the service. All very encouraging I think.

Planning is also well in hand for the 2006 Midwinter Festival which will build on the lessons of past years and seek to widen patronage even further. I encourage members to ensure they plan to participate fully in next year's event, including advertising in the Mercury Supplement.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to all TPN members and associates for the coming Festive Season and look forward to a great 2006.

Bill Lawson.
TPN Chairman.

ANTARCTIC TASMANIA (CONT.)

INTERNATIONAL VISITS (cont.)

- 23 September 2005, Antarctic Tasmania received a visit from Mr Shisei Kaku, Japanese Consul General and Kenichi Kanazawam, Vice Consul.
- On the 27 September 2005, Antarctic Tasmania received a visit from Mr Earl Irving, the US Consul General.

ANTARCTIC WEB PORTAL

The *Antarctic Gateway Web Portal* has been updated and now includes an interactive database of 39 winter stations located in Antarctica (found at <http://www.antarcticgateway.info>). The Internet website portal showcases Tasmania's Antarctic connections and provides links to the State's Antarctic institutions, specialist services and on-line resources. It is also an effective means of building brand awareness of Hobart as an international Antarctic Gateway and promotes national and international awareness of the State's key Antarctic organisations.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP – SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

Antarctic Tasmania provided sponsorship funding to the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC to host an international scientific workshop on *Ecological change in East Antarctica stochastic variability, cycles or regime shifts?* The workshop was held at the AAD from 5-7 September 2005. International delegates from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France and Japan attended the workshop. The three-day workshop brought together a group of 30 international experts in marine ecology, glaciology, meteorology, physical oceanography and ecosystem modeling to examine the proposition that there have been concerted recent changes in the ecosystems of the Southern Ocean off East Antarctica.

Ben Galbraith
General Manager

Ginger and Gadget head south for summer

Ginger and Gadget, AAD's chartered CASA 212-EE aircraft ferried Hobart to Casey Station 25 October 2005, signalling this austral summer's fixed wing flying season officially open. Flight time for both aircraft to Casey was approximately 12 hours, landing shortly after at 7.22pm (Casey Local Time). Their arrival coinciding with helicopters operating from Aurora Australis on Voyage 1 bringing the relative peace and calm of Casey to an abrupt finish!

Thanks go to Neil Adams, Senior Forecaster with the Bureau of Meteorology, who provided excellent support service to aircrew during the three weeks leading up to the flight and the ferry with forecasted weather conditions proving to be extremely close to what was encountered providing a slightly better than planned arrival time.

As scheduled, both planes positioned from Casey to Davis on 1 November in preparation for the transfer of Mawson personnel and cargo from AA due in at Davis 6 November. Unseasonably bad weather in the Prydz Bay area precluded flying to Mawson station on 9 November to commence the Mawson personnel changeover. The aircraft recently received approval to operate at an increased take off weight allowing payloads of up to approximately 950kgs on future Casey to Davis flights.

Over the next five days 19 departing winterers and their cargo were transferred between Mawson and Davis and 13 incoming expeditioners on the return flight with AA departing Davis for return to Hobart on 14 November 2005.

Landings on wheels were at times able to be conducted on sea ice prepared and maintained to an excellent standard by Aircraft Ground Support Officers at Casey and Davis and expeditioners at Mawson.

Field operations are also well under way with reconnaissance flights to the Amery Ice Shelf being followed by deployment of the AMISOR camp, currently personnel and six tonnes of cargo, to unprepared snow landing surfaces.

Further intra station cargo flights between Davis and Mawson were conducted on 14-16 November. Typical payload on this route is 1500kgs with the large cabin, rear ramp and cargo winch facilitating carriage of large, bulky items of cargo for the wind turbine project.

At the time of writing CASA 212's have flown approximately 67 flight hours and have contributed to a great start to the 2005/2006 season.

[Thanks to **Andrew Deep**, Logistics Officer, AAD Air Operations, for this report.]



Photo: Graham Cook, Station Leader, Mawson Station, Antarctica

POLAR BITES

MEMBER'S AWARDS

Congratulations to the following TPN members who won awards at this year's Business Excellence and Service Awards in Clarence.

- Collex Pty Ltd – an Excellence Award
- Hobart International Airport Pty Ltd – a Chairman's Award

As well, Moonraker Australia Pty Ltd was publicised by Economic Development Minister Lara Giddings as an example of a successful exporter of niche products, and the Antarctic Midwinter Festival won the Significant Festivals and Events category of the Tasmanian Tourism Awards.



The past months have been busy and productive ones for the ACE CRC, both in terms of research and in the development of improved links with potential research users.

One of the important results to come out of our Ocean Control of CO₂ Program recently, from CSIRO scientist Richard Matear in collaboration with a range of international scientists, was an assessment of the likely impacts of escalating atmospheric levels of CO₂ on acidification of the Southern Ocean and the probable consequences for planktonic plants and animals that have calcareous shells. Shell formation will become increasingly difficult under increased acidification of the ocean, potentially resulting in significant shifts in the structure of the planktonic communities that are important for CO₂ uptake by the oceans and upon which the Antarctic marine ecosystems are built. Because the levels of atmospheric CO₂ are now entering 'unchartered waters', for which we have no record in climates for the past 400,000 or more years, it is difficult to anticipate just how much impact these changes will have.

The focus of our Antarctic Marine Ecosystems (AME) Program during 2004-05 was on 'scoping' a conceptual framework for developing ecosystem models for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean ecosystems that can be used as a tool to predict the potential impacts of changing climate on Antarctic marine ecosystems and to evaluate ecosystem-based management options for harvested resources. The AME Program now has a major field season looming, with a 71 day voyage starting in January 2006. This major field initiative is a collaborative project between the Climate Variability & Change (CVC) and the AME programs of the CRC. The "Broke/Marginex-West Experiment" will survey the physical oceanographic and biological characteristics of approximately half of eastern Antarctica. The survey will provide valuable data to help us develop an ecosystem model for the region, which will later be linked to the models of physical oceanography for the region.

More than 100 people participated in the second annual ACE CRC Symposium in August this year. The first day of the symposium featured presentations and discussion by both ACE CRC scientists about our research programs, and by key research user groups about their specific needs. Research user groups represented included the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment; the Australian Greenhouse Office; Insurance Australia Group; ACIL Tasmania and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

We also achieved another major milestone that will enhance the delivery of national benefits from ACE CRC research when our newly developed commercialisation and utilisation plan was accepted by DEST. The increasing focus on demonstrating relevance and benefit from publicly funded research is an important change in the R&D culture in Australia and globally. It is essential that we address these needs in ways that provide maximum benefit to the Australian community. In some cases, that will mean beating a path to market with innovative technologies. In other cases, however, greater economic, social and environmental benefit will be generated by the transfer of new technologies and new information to the multitude of interested parties for whom that information will provide assistance in adapting their activities to changing circumstances. In other words, putting new knowledge into the public domain or into the instruments of government, acting on behalf of the community, will be more beneficial than seeking to price it into limited markets. By and large, climate change science, such as that done at the ACE CRC, predominantly falls into the latter category. The challenge we will tackle in the coming years is to promulgate the benefits from ACE CRC research that best serve the community via government and the public domain, whilst also being vigilant for innovative technologies that are most likely to deliver benefit via the market place.

Professor Bruce Mapstone
CEO – Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC

APOLOGIES

IB apologises to the following people for errors in the last edition:

- Wayne Tucker (HIAPL) and Phil (Tweezy) for reversing their company names.
- Jennifer Rhemann, (not Stephanie Dupré), in the photograph of IASOS scholarship winners.
- Klaus Arne Pedersen, provider of the Antarctic stamp covers which appear in each edition, for misspelling his name.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF CCAMLR

Following our article in the previous edition of *Ice Breaker* in which we featured CCAMLR's new headquarters, we can now report that the building was opened on the 24th November, to coincide with the first day of the Commissions 24th meeting – CCAMLR-XXIV.

The opening honours were shared between the Commonwealth Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Alexander Downer MP, and the State Minister for Economic Development, the Hon. Lara Giddings MHA, whose respective Governments contribute to the rent of the new premises. Other guests included Senator Ian MacDonald, Commonwealth Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, who proposed the toast to the new headquarters, Senators Abetz and Calvert from the Commonwealth Government, and Rene Hidding, Will Hodgeman and Peg Putt from the State Parliament.

The official guests were met by the new Chairman of the Commission, Professor Seo-Hang Lee, from the Republic of Korea, Dr Edith Fanta, Chair of the Scientific Committee, from Brazil, and Dr Denzil Miller, Executive Secretary.

The Reverend Dr. Dudley Clarke, a former headmaster of the Hutchins School when it was located in CCAMLR's present site was also a special guest, and commented on the changes to the building since he was there.

The flags from all of the Member countries were raised for the duration of the meetings and added to the importance of the occasion. The official plaque commemorating the opening has been affixed to the wall adjacent to the front door, to complement the plaque indicating a previous use of the building fixed to the wall on the other side of the door. An interpretation panel readable from Macquarie St., and donated by the Rockefeller family, provides a history of the building.



L-R: Prof. Seo-Hang Lee (Chairman), Dr Denzil Miller (Secretary) and Alexander Downer, MP
[Photo: Eric Appleyard]

NEUSCHWABENLAND: THE LOST COLONY

GOERING'S HI TECH MISSION: THE GERMAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1938-39

The *Schwabenland* dropped anchor just off the pack ice of Antarctica on January 20 1939 at 69° 14' S, 4° 30' W. The vessel belonged to Lufthansa and had been used since 1934 as a mid Atlantic refuelling stop for the Dornier Wal float planes carrying mail between Europe and South America. Now the vessel, crew, pilots and expeditioners, with two Dornier Wal float planes for photo reconnaissance, were here as part of the German Antarctic Expedition funded by Reichmarshal Herman Goering at a cost of 3 million marks. Its hi tech mission was to claim part of the Antarctic for the German Reich.

Germany had never recognised the sector claims of sovereignty by other countries which had actively engaged in Antarctic exploration such as Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile and France. German international law experts had advised that to legally lay claim to territory it had to be physically occupied or symbolically (staking a claim similar to one for mining). The leader of the German 1939 Expedition, Captain Alfred Ritscher, who had already established himself as an Arctic explorer, was now on loan from Lufthansa as he was normally in charge of the *Schwabenland* on its mid-Atlantic station. He reported in the official account of the German Expedition published in 1942 that “one of the first things was to prepare aluminium darts each one and a half metres long, their tails (tops) engraved with the national flag (swastika). We intended to drop these darts every 20 to 30 kilometres along our flight paths.”

On January 14 1939 King Haakon of Norway issued a proclamation claiming the area between 20° W and 45° E and naming it Dronning (Queen) Maud Land. The German Expedition had aroused considerable hostility in Norway and the *Schwabenland's* and the German Expedition's operations lay clearly within the Norwegian claim. Germany ignored Norway's proclamation and claim but it was recognised by Australia, Britain, France and New Zealand.

The *Schwabenland* was 8,488 tonnes, nearly 143 metres in length and had a top speed of 11 knots (20 km/h) and had on board two 10 tonne Dornier Super Wal float planes named the *Boreas* and the *Passat*. These planes were launched by steam catapult from the bow deck of the vessel and had to attain 150 kms per hour for a successful take off. On return the planes were taken from the sea's surface by a crane at the stern of the ship. In order to launch the aircraft the *Schwabenland* had to build up to full steam for the catapult to have enough power. The Dorniers were in charge of two Lufthansa captains (on loan like Captain Ritscher), Rudolf Wahr and Richardheinrich Schirmacher and each plane carried a pilot, a navigator, a mechanic and a photographer.

In 1939, before the German Expedition, the only aerial photography undertaken in the Antarctic had been that by the most famous US expeditioner, Richard E Byrd in 1933. Byrd had visited the German Expedition in Hamburg at the invitation of the German Society of Polar Research, which had the task of assembling and training the crew of the Expedition. The Society invited Byrd to join the Expedition and he met the crew and was given a tour of the preparations. Byrd, however, declined the offer, returning to the U S and taking command of the U S Antarctic Service at the request of President Roosevelt until that position was ended in its first year due the approach of World War II.

The first photographic surveys using the Dorniers took place on 20 January 1939 the same day the *Schwabenland* dropped anchor off Antarctica. In his official Report of the Expedition Ritscher noted:

“On each flight under the most favourable conditions we could possibly photograph an area of roughly 200,000 sq km from an altitude of 3,000 metres. The weather was not always favourable of course. On average, the area of terrain covered daily was considerably smaller but except for a few minor technical problems, the planes' engines and the



Expedition Leader Captain Alfred Ritscher

NEUSCHWABENLAND: THE LOST COLONY

camera equipment held up splendidly... We penetrated southward up to 600 kilometres but then had to turn back because inland altitudes of 400 metres hindered further progress”.



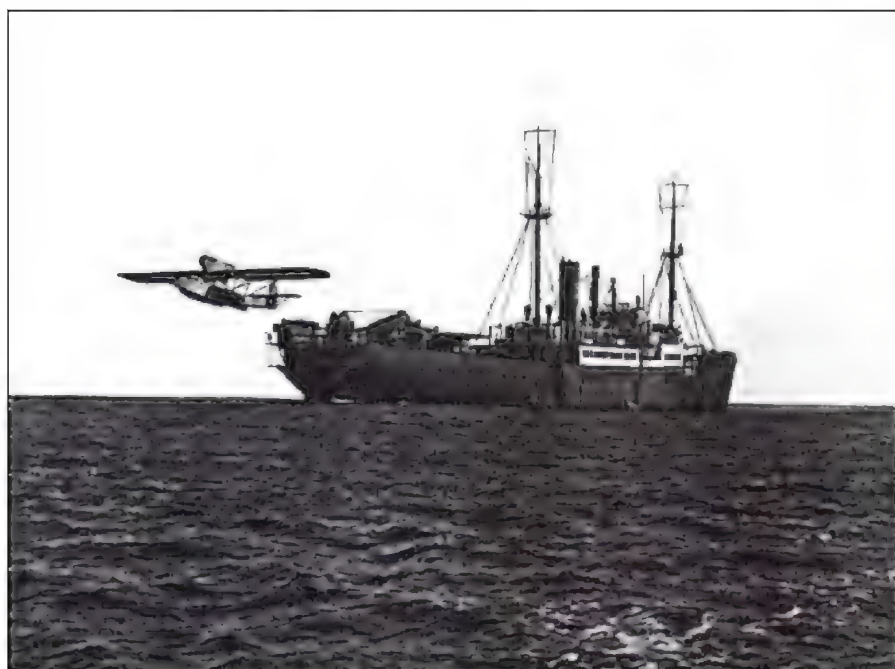
**Emperor Penguin (part of the five taken on board)
on the main deck of the Schwabenland.**



Wahr flag raising. ‘Passat’ landing party.

Seven long distance flights were made ending on the 23 January. The area surveyed showed an area of 250,000 square kilometres and the photographs were of land between 11° W and 19° E. The outer edges of the surveyed area were marked by the special darts (described earlier) dropped from the planes. The planes also dropped several thousand small swastika flags.

The planes were each equipped with special Zeiss RMK 38 cameras and took more than 18,000 pictures. These have an amazing quality even after over 60 years since they were taken. In all the cameras shot 360 metres of film. Maps for the Expedition’s Report were later developed with detailed contours obtained from the first aerial stereographic photographs ever taken of Antarctica and possibly of anywhere in the world. The Official Report published in 1942 included special viewing glasses for these.



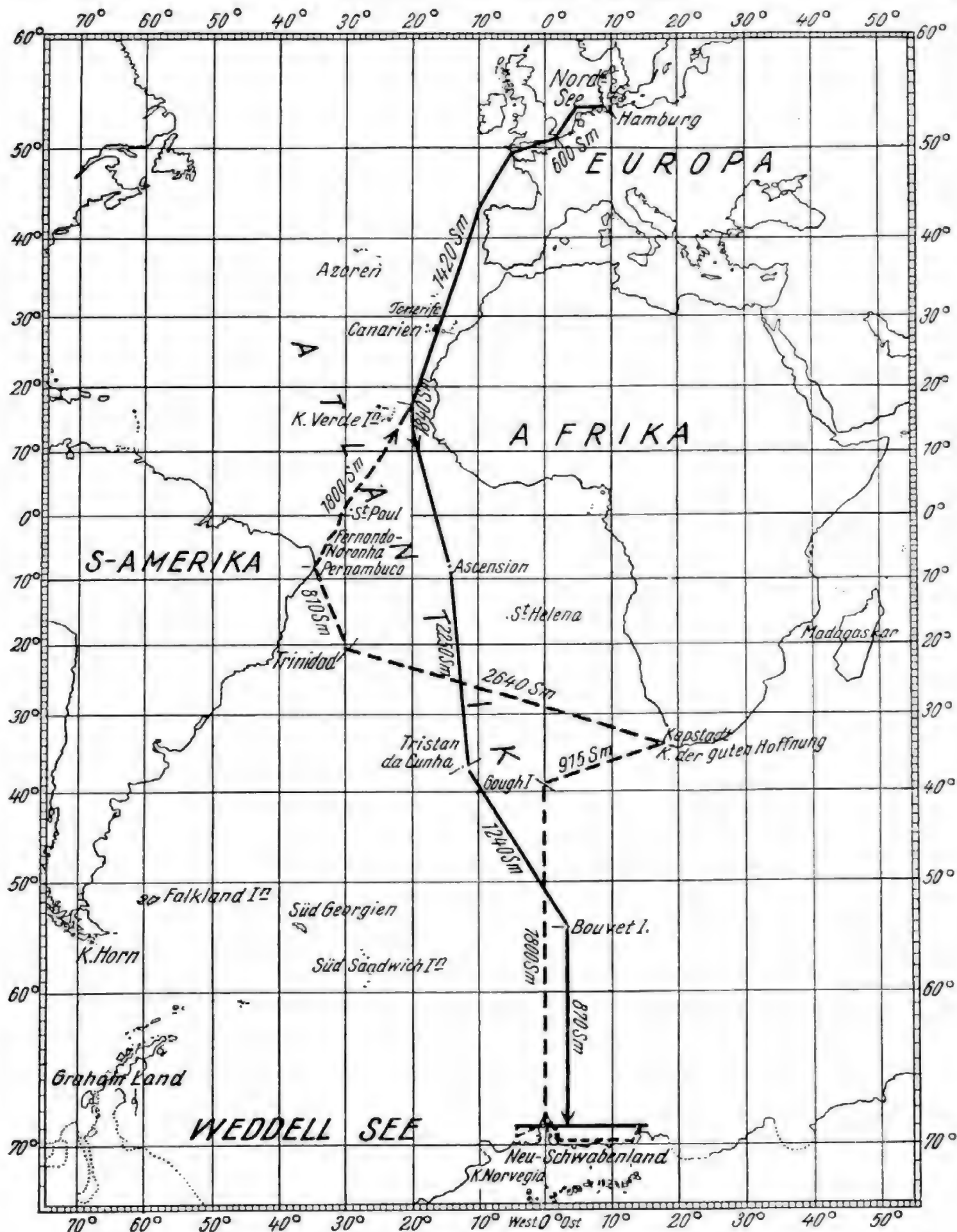
Above: Take off – one of the Dornier Wal float (hydro) planes



Right: Icepick marker used to mark out German claim. The photo was taken at a test in the Bavarian Alps 1938

Continued >

NEUSCHWABENLAND: THE LOST COLONY



Map of Inward (——) Voyages and Outward (-----) Voyages of "Schwabenland"

Continued >



NEUSCHWABENLAND: The Lost Colony

Seal of the German Antarctic Expedition

The aerial surveys discovered a number of new mountains including a circular chain of peaks between 71° and 73° S. The higher peaks were named after German explorers: Alexander von Humboldt, Georg von Neumayer, Erich von Drygalski and Wilhelm Filchner. An area of warm lakes was also discovered and charted which still bears the name given to it-the Wohlthat Massif. Other parts of this north Antarctic region that retain their original 1939 German names include Muhlig-Hoffman Mountains in the east of the surveyed region. In all about 600,000 square kilometres were claimed for the Third Reich.

Two landings were made on the edge of the pack ice. On January 29 the *Passat* flew a party to a bay at 69° 55' S and 1° 9' W. Photographs and surveys were made following a flag planting by the pilot Captain Rudolf Wahr. A second landing was made the next day from the *Boreas* which also involved a flag raising but was cut short by threatening ice movements. The day after this the same plane landed 515 kilometres from the second landing point and five emperor penguins were taken off to the *Schwabenland*. A larger party attempted to land by boat on February 5 but was ended when one member nearly drowned due to dangerous floating ice conditions.

The German Antarctic Expedition ended its exploration on February 15 with the *Schwabenland*, its Dorniers, crew and members reaching Cape Town on March 1. Arriving in Hamburg on April 10 1939

congratulatory telegrams from Hitler and Goering were sent on board. The area claimed was officially named Neu Schwabenland.

The German Antarctic Expedition of 1939 was carried out efficiently and with considerable technical expertise. The Official Report published in 1942 includes detailed scientific surveys consisting of oceanographic research and meteorological data. Both on the inward and outward voyages the *Schwabenland* took frequent radio soundings of the ocean floor. The Expedition was clearly intended to be an advance party for something even more ambitious and supportive of Germany's territorial claims in Antarctica. It is said that Captain Ritscher was so impressed by the results of the aerial surveys he intended to organise a wholly civilian expedition using planes with skis and lighter than the 10 tonne Dorniers. The outbreak of war dashed any plans the Captain may have had.

The maps and aerial photographs in the ageing pages of the Official Report of the 1939 German Antarctic Expedition remind us of a mission which was contentious in its time and still evokes some interesting theories as to the use made by the Third Reich of a survey of almost one fifth of Antarctica.

Acknowledgements:

I am particularly grateful to Meredith Inglis, Librarian at the Antarctic Division, Kingston, Tasmania for access to the original Report of the German Antarctic Expedition 1938-39.

References:

Die Deutsche Antarktische Expedition 1938-1939, Koebler and Amelang, Leipzig 1942 (the photographs are all from this reference).

Antarctica: The Extraordinary History of Man's Conquest of the Frozen Continent, Reader's Digest 1995 (1998 edition).

[Thanks to John Livermore, Editor: 'Transport: Laws of Australia' for this article.

Website: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~livermo/Business/>

Email: jlivermo@iinet.net.au]



BOOKS

THE DIARY OF ABRAHAM ULRIKAB by Harmut Lutz, Alootook Ipellie and Hans Ludwig Blohm. Published by University of Ottawa Press.

- An autobiographical account of an Inuit's life in 1880, starting with a voyage in a Norwegian ship from Hebron, Labrador, to Europe. Originally written in Inuktitut, translated into German in 1881 and later into English, this brief, written diary describes how 8 Inuits were 'displayed' in different venues in Europe, before all dying 4 months later of small pox and other illnesses.

IMPRESSIONS BORÉALES D'UN SEJOUR AU NUNAVIK by Alexandre Chouinard.

- Describes the 2 years the author spent in the north as a family physician in Inuit Arctic Quebec, Canada.

ANTARCTIC CHALLENGES: Historical and Current Perspectives in Otto Nordenskjöld's Antarctic Expedition 1901-1903. Edited by Aant Elzinga et al. Published by the University of Göteborg and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. Price: 400 Swedish Crowns.

- Contains 22 papers (in English) describing the Swedish Antarctic expedition which occurred at the same time as R.F. Scott's first and Erich von Drygalski's expeditions.

T.W. EDGEWORTH DAVID: A Life by David Branagan. Published by National Library of Australia. Price: \$39.95.

- A biography of geologist Edgeworth David and his achievements, including the discovery of the Hunter Valley coalfields and his visits to Antarctica and the South Pacific.

SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC by David Crane. Published by HarperCollins. Price: \$35.00.

- A well illustrated and researched biography.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY AND MAPPING OF BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY, SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS 1944-1986 by M B Hugo. Published by British Antarctic Survey. Price: £30 plus postage.

- Contains a detailed record of the progress made by surveyors during that time.

BOOKS ON THE WEB: www.antarctic-circle.org

FILMS

THE JOURNALS OF KNUD RASMUSSEN by Zacharias Kunuk, maker of *Atanarjuat: the Fast Runner*.

- Set in 1922, this film is an account of one Inuit's family coping with the problems of shifting from a traditional to a more modern lifestyle.

INUKSUIT: SILENT MESSENGERS OF THE ARCTIC. Directed by William D. MacGillivray and produced by Terry Greenlaw and the National Film Board of Canada.

- A documentary based on Norman Hallendy's book of the same name, about Inuits and their interaction with the Arctic landscape. Portrays 2 men of different backgrounds – ethno-geographer and photographer Hallendy and sculptor-actor Natar Ungalaq, who also appeared in *Atanarjuat*.

DVDs

FRANK HURLEY: The Man Who Made History. Price: \$29.95

THE BLUE PLANET. Price: \$89.95.

WOLVES OF THE SEA. Price: \$29.95.

- BBC productions from the ABC Shop:

SECRETS OF ANTARCTICA. Available from British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK. Price: £12.50 plus postage.

- Contains 4 BBC World TV programmes about Operation Tabarin; clean-up of bases; BAS science today, and a 1957 film about skills need for field travel with dogs.



ICE BEARS' AFFAIRS 1

Gordon Bain has kindly sent in the following update on Berkley and Ozgold, the 2 toy bears, who are off to Antarctica again this summer.

“Scientists and engineers at the University of Kansas are applying their expertise to develop and utilize innovative radar and robotic rovers to measure ice thickness and determine bedrock conditions below the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. They are doing this through the auspices of a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA. This grant has been named PRISM (Polar Radar for Ice Sheet Measurements).

The PRISM team, including Berkley and OzGold, is due to leave the US on December 17 for New Zealand; they hope to be at McMurdo by December 22 and after a short stay, be field-deployed to the WAIS Divide camp. Research Associate Professor Jennifer Holvoet will chronicle the adventures of the bears in a journal that will be posted on Virtual PRISM at <http://ku-prism.org> but a full posting to a website with photos et al will have to wait till sometime next year. Jennifer tells me they are going to try to do some real-time video from the remote camp (Ride with Us at Virtual PRISM) during their time on the ice December 22 to January 22 and is willing to correspond with students/teachers. The team will be using a multiplexed iridium setup to have e-mail access in the remote field camp.

I know that Tasmanian schools will be on holidays at the time, but if you are interested in keeping in touch with the activity – perhaps in preparation for any Antarctic study next year – feel free to contact Jennifer when she is in Antarctica (jholvoet@ku.edu). “

kuprism.org/resources/BearsOnIce/index.html
kuprism.org/resources/Bears2004/2004index.htm

Jonathon Shackleton with Ozgold aboard *Kapitan Khlebnikov* in Hobart [Photo: Gordon Bain]



ICE BEARS' AFFAIRS 2

Another traveller associated with the 2 bears is Jonathon Shackleton, family historian and cousin of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Jonathon visited Tasmania for the first time in early November, and gave a very interesting illustrated talk about Sir Ernest at the AAD, before departing for Antarctica as special guest lecturer aboard the *Kapitan Khlebnikov*

Gordon Bain accompanied Jonathon on visits to significant sites around Hobart, including the Scott memorial stained glass window at St Albans's Church, Claremont, the Rossbank Observatory site at Government House and Hadley's Hotel, where Amundsen stayed on his return from Antarctica. (Jonathon intends to do the same!)

While at the AAD, Jonathon presented the Library with a signed copy of his book 'Shackleton, An Irishman in Antarctica' as well as viewing heritage books and other items relating to Sir Ernest. He has already visited most his relative's Antarctica locations, including Elephant Island.



[Photo: Nicole Saunders, AAD]

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Email: HausBain@bigpond.net.au

What price would you pay for a polar book? Michael Sprod from Astrolabe Booksellers in Hobart has kindly provided some recent examples.



The primary accounts of the 'heroic age' of Antarctic exploration were tremendously popular in their day, as the numerous contemporary reprints attest, and it would be silly to suggest that the subject has been at any time neglected; yet it is true to say that in the book world, the last decade or so has seen a strong resurgence of interest in Antarctica, an observation readily confirmed by a quick glance at the relevant section of any new-book shop. This renewed interest has been matched by – and possibly even led by – a marked rise in demand for copies of the original, or early, editions.

In Australia, the 1994 Gaston Renard auction of Antarctic books (1744 lots, meticulously catalogued) could be said to have marked this growing appreciation of south polar book collecting. There has not been another auction of this magnitude in this country since then, but the mid-September sale at Melbourne's Australian Book Auctions (ABA) featured a substantial number interesting items – mostly from the library of Dr Bill Woelkerling – and your correspondent attended in an attempt to bolster the Antarctic section of his second-hand/antiquarian bookshop.

An ABA sale in May had also contained a reasonable quantity of Antarctic books, although on that occasion few first editions of exploration accounts had been on offer. Nonetheless there were a good quantity of decent books available, and many of these found their way back to Salamanca Place. This time around, better fare was on offer, and prices realised were suitably healthy.

The auction room was far from packed but, as is increasingly the case, absentee and phone bidding virtually filled many more seats. As might have been expected, strong prices (given here with buyer's premium added) were gained for first English editions, including Bernacchi's *To The South Polar Regions* (the colonial issue, \$1747); Borchgrevink's *First on the Antarctic Continent* (in the primary binding, \$1281); Cook's *Through the First Antarctic Night* (\$1165); Cherry-Garrard's *The Worst Journey in the World* (in publisher's library binding, \$3029); Priestley's *Antarctic Adventure* (\$1281); and Mawson's *The Home of the Blizzard* (\$1980). A nice set of Amundsen's *The South Pole* sold for \$1864 – a healthy price but a long way short of a set in similar condition, but inscribed by Edgeworth David, more recently offered in a bookseller's catalogue for \$5250. Two copies of Brown, Mossman & Pirie's *The Voyage of the Scotia* brought \$932 and \$873 respectively – a little worn, and the latter more so but in an unrecorded secondary binding and with its spine lettering unusually intact. Shackleton's *The Heart of the Antarctic* realised a somewhat restrained \$1106. Some more modern works also did well: the first English translation (by Frank Debenham) of *The Voyage of Captain Bellinghausen*, published by the Hakluyt Society in 1945, with the plain but scarce dustwrappers, brought \$1514; and one of the 375 copies of the 'breath-takingly faithful' facsimile of the 'Julienne Soup' copy of *Aurora Australis* (1988) cost its new owner \$2097.

More unusual items (on any subject) always generate much interest. In this category a privately compiled album of 28 autographs, including those of several of the authors mentioned above as well as Frank Worsley and John King Davis, went for \$1631 to an Adelaide bookseller; and \$3029 was paid for an album of photographs and sketches from Scott's *Discovery* expedition – a non-technical 'illustrative study of Antarctic landscapes and wildlife', issued by the Royal Society in 1908. The original Russian edition of Evgenii Suziumov's biography of Mawson (1960) – available inexpensively in an Australian-published translation – with the author's presentation inscription to Dr R.A. Falla, made nearly \$1400.

Most of the better items appeared to go to private collectors, paying retail prices (or more), with several finding their way to Tasmania. A strong representation of the trade ensured that few bargains were on offer, but several more boxes of good solid material made the trip across the strait, and onto the Astrolabe shelves.

Michael Sprod
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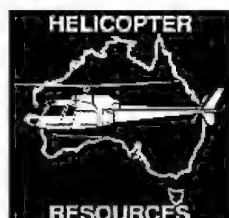
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| 5-9 | December | 2005 | International Symposium on Sea Ice. Dunedin, NZ. Contact: http://www.igsoc.org/symposia . |
| 9 | December | 2005 | TPN meeting. 11.00am-1.00pm. CCAMLR headquarters. Hobart, Tasmania. |
| 31 | December | 2006 | Closing date for abstracts for the SCAR Open Science Conference. Hobart, Tasmania. [see below for details] |
| 7 | March | 2006 | Opening of 'Islands to Ice, the Great Southern Ocean and Antarctic Exhibition' Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Hobart, Tasmania. Hotline: 03 6211 4166 or Antarctic.exhibition@tmag.tas.gov.au |
| 24-30 | April | 2006 | IAATO meeting. Washington, DC, USA. |
| 6-7 | July | 2006 | International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic. Hobart, Tasmania. [See Page 5 for details] |
| 9-19 | July | 2006 | SCAR XXIX/COMNAP XVIII Meetings, including Trade Show. Hobart, Tasmania. |



12 - 14th July 2006 The 2nd SCAR OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

On

"Antarctica in the Earth System"

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS
IS 31 DECEMBER 2005**

Australia will host the 2nd interdisciplinary SCAR Open Science Conference on "Antarctica in the Earth System" in Hobart between the 12th & 14th July 2006. The conference provides the opportunity for SCAR's international science community to showcase exciting advancements in the science and contribute to the future direction of Antarctic science, as well as highlighting the opportunities for future international co-operation. The Open Science Conference will capture our current understanding of the strong links between Antarctica, the Southern Ocean and

Southern Ocean Islands and other parts of the Earth System, exploring the interdisciplinary nature of these links. The nature of this science ensures that the SCAR Open Science Conference will be a truly international and interdisciplinary meeting. The Conference also provides a timely opportunity to promote the synergies between the research directions of SCAR and those of the forthcoming International Polar Year 2007-2008.

The parallel session topics will be determined on the basis of the Abstracts submitted for the meeting by **YOU**, the Antarctic scientific community. For further information or electronic submission of abstracts, go to www.scar2006.org.

Kate Kiefer

Project Manager, SCAR/COMNAP 2006, Australian Antarctic Division

E-mail: kate.kiefer@aad.gov.au

ICE FESTIVALS

Japan will be holding 2 winter festivals in early 2006 in Sapporo. The Ice Fall Festival will be held between January 28 and March 26 and a snow festival, featuring over 300 snow and ice sculptures, will run from February 6-12. For details, see www.jnto.go.jp.



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SHIPPING & AIR CALENDAR



2	December	2005	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V1	Departs Hobart for Marine Science.
3-6	December	2005	L'ASTROLABE		Departs Hobart for Dumont D'Urville.
4-5	December	2005	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V1.1	Arrives Lyttleton, NZ, departs for Macquarie Is.
4-10	December	2005	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V2	Marine Science.
9	December	2005	MARINA SVETAeva	V2.2	Arrives Hobart, departs Commonwealth Bay.
12-13	December	2005	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V2.1	Arrives Dunedin, NZ, departs for Macquarie Is.
12-13	December	2005	MARINA SVETAeva	V2.2	Macquarie Island.
13-21	December	2005	L'ASTROLABE		Dumont D'Urville.
18-19	December	2005	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V2.3	Macquarie Island.
16-22	December	2005	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V2	Casey Station.
24-25	December	2005	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V2.4	Macquarie Island.
27-29	December	2005	L'ASTROLABE		Arrives Hobart, departs for Dumont D'Urville.
29	December	2005	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V2.4	Arrives Hobart, departs for Macquarie Island.
30	December	2005	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V2.3	Arrives Dunedin, NZ.
31	December	2005-	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V2	Arrives Fremantle, WA, departs for Marine Science.
2	January	2006			
1-2	January	2006	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V2.5	Macquarie Island.
2-4	January	2006	MARINA SVETAeva	V4.2	Arrives Bluff, NZ, departs for Macquarie Is.
4-8	January	2006	L'ASTROLABE		Dumont D'Urville.
9-12	January	2006	VASILIIY GOLOVNIN	V4	Arrives Hobart, departs for Casey Station.
12	January	2006-	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V3	Marine Science.
12	February	2006			
13	January	2006	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V4.1	Departs Bluff, NZ.
14	January	2006	ORION	V3.1	Departs Hobart for 16-day Antarctic cruise
17	January	2006	ORION	V3.1	Macquarie Island.
18-19	January	2006	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V4.1	Macquarie Island.
21	January	2006	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V4.4	Arrives Lyttleton, NZ.
21-27	January	2006	VASILIIY GOLOVNIN	V4	Casey Station.
24-25	January	2006	MARINA SVETAeva	V4.2	Macquarie Island
28-30	January	2006	MARINA SVETAeva	V4.2	Arrives Hobart, departs for Macquarie Island.
29	January	2006	ORION	V3.1	Arrives Lyttleton, NZ, departs for Macquarie Island.
2-3	February	2006	MARINA SVETAeva	V4.3	Macquarie Island.
3-8	February	2006	VASILIIY GOLOVNIN	V4	Mawson Station.
10	February	2006	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V4.1	Arrives Bluff, NZ.
10-11	February	2006	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V4.5	Macquarie Island.
11	February	2006	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V4.6	Departs Bluff, NZ.
11-12	February	2006	VASILIIY GOLOVNIN	V4	Davis Station.
13-16	February	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V3	Mawson Station.
14	February	2006	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV	V4.5	Arrives Hobart.
15	February	2006	ORION	V4.5	Macquarie Island.
16-17	February	2006	SPIRIT OF ENDERBY	V4.6	Macquarie Island.
17-27	February	2006	AURORA AUSTRALIS	V3	Marine Science.
18	February	2006	ORION	V4.5	Arrives Hobart.
23	February	2006	MARINA SVETAeva	V4.3	Arrives Bluff, NZ.

FLIGHT CALENDAR FOR GINGER AND GADGET

13	December	2005	Davis to Casey	F17	Transfer personnel/cargo to V2.
17	December	2005	Casey to Davis	F18	Transfer from V2.
19	December	2005	Davis to Mawson	F19/20	Transfer from V2 and return to Davis.
9	January	2006	Davis to Casey	F55	
26	January	2006	Casey to Davis	F57	
2	February	2006	Casey to Davis	F8	Transfer of V3 personnel.
20	February	2006	Davis to Casey	F11,12	Final flights ex Davis.
28	February	2006	Casey to Hobart	F13,14	End of season ferry.

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CASA 212 Aircraft at Casey
Photo by Jeremy Smith

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